

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently amended) A resin composition comprising a tackifying resin and at least one phosphorous containing surfactant comprising ~~a branched alkyl and/or alkenyl group and a polyoxyalkylene group~~ terminating in a branched group selected from branched alkyl and branched alkenyl groups and mixtures thereof.
2. (Original) A resin composition according to claim 1 wherein the at least one phosphorous containing surfactant is at least one phosphate ester.
3. (Previously presented) A resin composition according to claim 1 wherein the branched group is an alkyl group comprising in the range from 8 to 20 carbon atoms.
4. (Previously presented) A resin composition according to claim 1 wherein the longest linear chain of the branched alkyl and/or alkenyl group comprises in the range from 7 to 12 carbon atoms.
- 5.-7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously presented) A resin composition according to claim 1 wherein the polyoxyalkylene group is of the formula  $(C_mH_{2m}O)_n$  wherein m is 2, 3 or 4, and n is in the range from 5 to 15.
9. (Currently amended) A resin composition according to claim 1 wherein the tackifying resin is selected from the group consisting of a resin, rosins, and/or tackifying resin derivatives thereof, and/or of rosins, a hydrocarbon resin, resins and mixtures thereof.
10. (Currently amended) A pressure sensitive adhesive comprising a tackifying

resin and at least one phosphorous containing surfactant comprising ~~a branched alkyl and/or alkenyl group~~ and a polyoxyalkylene group terminating in a branched group selected from branched alkyl and branched alkenyl groups and mixtures thereof.

11. (New) A resin composition comprising a tackifying resin and at least one phosphorous containing surfactant comprising a polyoxyalkylene group terminating in a branched group selected from branched alkyl and branched alkenyl groups and mixtures thereof, wherein the branched group comprises in the range from 1.5 to 6 side-branches on average by number.

12. (New) A resin composition according to claim 11 wherein the at least one phosphorous containing surfactant is at least one phosphate ester and the branched group is an alkyl group comprising in the range from 8 to 20 carbon atoms.

13. (New) A resin composition according to claim 11 wherein at least one side-branch comprises in the range from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

14. (New) A resin composition according to claim 13 wherein greater than 50% by number of the side-branches are methyl groups.

15. (New) A resin composition according to claim 11 wherein the polyoxyalkylene group is of the formula  $(C_mH_{2m}O)_n$  wherein m is 2, 3 or 4, and n is in the range from 5 to 15.

16. (New) A resin composition according to claim 11 wherein the tackifying resin is selected from the group consisting of rosin, tackifying resin derivatives of rosins, hydrocarbon resins and mixtures thereof.